EQUAL RIGHTS

"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAY 26 1938

Discriminations Against Women Under Florida Law

By ETHEL ERNEST MURRELL

What Every Woman Ought To Know

League Of Nations And Status Of Women

By ERICA BUTLER-BOWDON

May 15, 1938

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships—in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, and the adherence of the United States to the Equal Rights Treaty. The Woman's Party also supports the proposed Equality Amendments to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

THE PROPOSED EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Art. 1—Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"Art. 2—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced

Senate—By Senator Townsend (Del.), and Senator Burke, (Neb.), Feb. 5, 1937, (Senate Joint Resolution No. 65).

House—By Representative Ludlow, (Ind.), Jan. 5, 1937, (House Joint Resolution No. 1).

Present Status

Senate—Before Senate: Reported by Senate Judiciary Committee March 21, 1938; favorable report by sub-judiciary committee June 23, 1937.

House—Before Judiciary Committee; favorable report by sub-judiciary committee June 16,1937.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

"Art. 1—The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Signed

By Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay, at Montevido, December, 1933.

PROPOSED EQUALITY AMENDMENTS TO COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries the right of vote shall not be denied or abridged on the ground of sex."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice regarding nationality."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries men and women shall have equal rights in all other fields."

"The members of the League undertake that there shall be both men and women, with full voting powers, in all delegations to the Council and Assembly of the League and to all Conferences under the auspices of the League."

Present Status

Before the League of Nations Committee on Status of Women.

We Recommend More Research

MARGARET HOPE NICHOLSON, dean of Smith College in an address at the University of Rochester Phi Beta Kappa initiation, took a dig at women, declaring that they had never accomplished much in scholarship and that it was time they realized their limitations.

The dean accusingly stated that "women are over-conscientious" and "get bogged down in petty details which men skip over more lightly."

Saying that she has little use for "these equal rights preachers," she blames at least a portion of the supposed failure of women to make "any great accomplishments in the more abstract fields," to the fact that "women have no wives." "Now, that," she says, "is a really serious proposition, even though you can make it as funny as the dickens. A woman comes home from a hard day's work and then has social and household duties to perform. Further," she says, "until science devises a way to share the burden of child-bearing, women will always have a physical handicap."

These opinions would not be surprising coming from some lesser light, but from the dean of a Woman's College, of the standing of Smith, to a University group such as Phi Beta Kappa, which represents scholarship and to which many women belong, it would hardly seem to be in keeping with the enlightened institution she serves, and which serves women.

Charging that "One reason women have not done more in scholarship is that they have to go to inferior institutions, by and large, for graduate work," it would be interesting to know why Miss Nicholson thinks that women have to go to inferior institutions to a greater degree than do men.

She apparently overlooks the fact that while the doors of institutions of higher education have been open to men for centuries, they only began to stand ajar to women one hundred years ago. She also has apparently overlooked the fact that the traditional prejudice of sex, the hangover of which apparently has extended even to the distinguished dean of Smith, has been one of the most serious handicaps to overcome.

There have been Helen Kellers among women, despite handicaps. There are, of course, exceptional women, just as there are exceptional men, who have won against great odds. Yet such cases are demonstrations of what can be done. There have been Madame Curies, Dr. Florence Sabins, who "had no wives," but this was no bar to achievement.

There are, the dean of Smith must admit, millions of men who have not made the grade, just as there are millions of women who have not, but was it because of their sex, or their individual limitations?

As for the "preachers of equal rights" with whom she has no patience, the dean must have been guilty of the fault of which she accuses her sex, when she says: "Even though they carry on research to any extent, it is not like a man will," because once again she has missed the point. "Equal Rights," when one resorts to even the most superficial investigation, to say nothing of exhaustive research, refers only to an identity of rights, not an identity of individuals.

It is a new thought that human beings need wives in order to achieve. Is it possible that the dean means "slaves"? For she refers to the fact that when a woman comes home from a hard day's work she has social and household duties to perform, but that men, "if they have wives, have most of those annoyances taken off their shoulders."

We recommend more research, Dean Nicholson.

Discriminations Against Women Under Florida Law

By Ethel Ernest Murrell

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Murrell is a feminist a lawyer and writer and at present is devoting her time and talents to raising the status of women in her home state. She conducts a weekly radio broadcast from Miami, entitled "Women and the Law." Participating in the broadcast on May 3rd were Mrs. Murrell, Mrs. T. V. Moore, past president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, Mary Avery Roberts and Helen Hunt West, the subject being the Equal Rights Amendment.

FLORIDA has proved that neither wind nor high water can keep her from the progress which is her destiny. Since the time of the landing of the first Spanish missionaries—through a dip-bath of Anglicism, a shower of French domination, until 1845 when she joined the union of the States and adopted English common law as the basis of her legal system, a symbol of progress has sped straight as an arrow through her history. But lately while she has been piling up her sky lines, like a child at work with gleaming blocks, the rest of the country has realized that the Anglican system of laws, splendid in 1845, does not fit 1938.

Thirty-seven states of the union have consequently modified their laws as they pertain to married women. Of the remaining eleven, Delaware, North Carolina, Louisiana, Texas and Alabama most closely simulate Florida in the retention of the old chattel restrictions. But Florida leads for lack of legal liberality.

Although in this warm-skyed state, a single woman may handle her property with the same freedom accorded a man, immediately upon marriage she becomes, in effect, a legal infant. She may not make a contract or a promissory note, nor may she give a deed or mortgage, make a lease, nor yet sue or be sued, without the jointure of her husband. Infants sue by their next friend. Idiots and lunatics sue by their guardians and married women sue by next friend or husband, except in certain instances such as suits for alienation of affection, maintenance, divorce or alimony.

A Florida husband is still liable for his wife's torts, and must be joined with her as a defendant in tort actions. It is notable, however, that his property is attachable, only after her property, if any, has been liquidated, which pricks this bubble of protection still put forth by the "non-abolitionists."

It is argued, that since in Florida women may not be held personally liable on their contracts, it is a protection they should retain. Honest women do not need, nor desire such protection, but thousands of frauds are perpetrated daily through this backward law.

All property owned by a woman before marriage or which she acquires afterwards as a gift, or inherits, or buys with her own money, is known as separate property. The law gives a husband the right to manage and control his wife's separate property, nor may she sue him on anything involving trust, or title to, or management. In other words, she may not call him to account for the rents, profits, or proceeds from her separate property.

In order to conduct herself as a legal adult person, that is, manage her property as though single, a married woman must go into Court and petition for a license to become a Free Dealer. Her competency will be checked and if the Court deems it adequate, he will proceed to remove her disabilities. The operation, I am told, is not painful, but it is expensive and certainly absurd in 1938.

Florida law dates back and is predicated on the common law of England. This Lex non scripta, as Blackstone called the common law, is based on custom rather than on written records. Woman in old England, was, in very fact, a chattel. The absolute parental authority passed to the husband on her marriage. She might be restrained within the confines of her house by force, if necessary, and punished with a stick no larger than her husband's thumb. On the other hand, consistently enough, her husband was responsible for all her civil wrongs and crimes, except treason. In theory and in fact, she was a legal minor, protected by the law against herself.

Yes, it is easy to understand the psychology of the ancient laws, but more difficult to understand their retention in a state such as Florida where the whole hue and cry is progress.

In the 17th Century Daniel Defoe wrote, "I have often thought of it as one of the most barbarous customs in the world . . . that we deny the advantages of learning to women . . . bless us, what care we take to breed up a good horse . . . and why not a woman?"

A wit of the Elizabethian period quoth:
"A woman on the stage set prancing
Would be as absurd as a trained dog dancing."
And of the Duchess of Cavendish was written:
"Sure the poore woman is a little distracted, shee could never bee soe rediculous else as to venture at writeing books."

Ruskin urged men to educate their women that they might make more pleasant companions for their hus-

(Continued on Page 263)

Informed Persons Know

The New York *Sun* of April 17 carried under the caption "Equal Rights Opponents Ask Some Questions," a series of questions and answers regarding the Amendment prepared by Mrs. Henry W. Louria and Mrs. Charles Poletti.

Nearly all of the replies to such questions as to the meaning of the Equal Rights Amendment and its affect are answered with, "No one knows."

Realizing that it is very natural that anyone who has not made exhaustive study of the proposed Amendment, as well as having made a study of the Constitution of the United States with Amendments already adopted, might reply, "No one knows," to the series of questions submitted.

Elsewhere in this issue of Equal Rights these questions are answered for the benefit of those who are sincerely interested in authoritative information, the result of intensive research based on fact, common sense and law.

Proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment have not been satisfied with a superficial knowledge of the proposed amendment, which they consider one of vital importance to the entire nation.

What Every Woman Ought To Know

OPPONENTS of the Equal Rights Amendment have asked for answers to the following series of questions. They admit *they* "do not know."

1. *What is the Equal Rights Amendment?*

SECTION 1. Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

2. *What do its proponents think such "blanket legislation" will accomplish?*

ANS. It is hoped that passage of the Amendment will bring about the removal of all discriminations against women in both Federal and State laws; that it will render invalid every future attempt on the part of legislators or administrators to interfere with equal rights for women.

All amendments to the U. S. Constitution are "blanket" amendments. Justice Story of the Supreme Court said: "The Constitution unavoidably deals in general language. It did not suit the purposes of the people, in framing this great charter of our liberties, to provide for minute specifications."

3. *What are "equal rights"?*

ANS. The Oxford Dictionary defines "equal" as "having the same right or privilege." Equal rights for men and women might be defined as one law for men and women. The Amendment language is definite, concise and in harmony with the other amendments to the Constitution. The 9th amendment contains no definition of the word "rights" used therein. The 14th amendment contains no definition of "due process of law."

4. *Do "equal rights" mean accepting men's standards in everything, or women's?*

ANS. Under the Amendment, each State would adopt its own standard, but the standard in any one State would apply equally to men and women. When suffrage was won, California equalized its law by abolishing poll tax for men while Mississippi equalized its law by extending poll tax to women.

5. *Shall wives be responsible for their husbands' support or husbands be compelled to render services in the home?*

ANS. Today, under the laws of many States, husbands and wives owe each other mutually support and assistance. The practice of making the wife and mother, as well as the husband and father, responsible for the support of spouse and children is far under way in this country, one-third of the States having such laws. In all of these States the husband is not relieved of his responsibility. The majority of wives in every State now contribute to the support of husbands and families through their labor and services in the home, although such support is accorded no legal recognition. Under the Amendment, each State could set its own standard of support.

6. *What will be the effect of the Amendment on existing minimum wage and maximum hour legislation for women?*

ANS. Although the trend today is toward wage and hour legislation for all workers, minimum wage and maximum hour legislation applying to women only exists in some States. Each such State, anticipating the adoption of the Amendment, could amend its laws to apply to all adult workers. Unless the laws were so amended, they would be ineffective and in that case adult women, working under a disadvantage because of special restrictions, could contract on the same terms as men.

7. *What will happen to all laws pertaining to women between the time this Amendment is adopted and the time Congress passes legislation to enforce it?*

ANS. The process of adopting an amendment to the Constitution is not a quick one. It would require action by three-fourths of the States. There would be sufficient time between passage and ratification by the necessary number of States to bring State laws into harmony with the Amendment. After passage of the suffrage amendment, there was no difficulty in this respect.

8. *Does equality mean uniformity throughout the whole country in matters in which State statutes now differ widely?*

ANS. "Equality" does not mean uniformity. Under the Amendment, in a given State men and women would have equal rights, but the rights would not necessarily be the same in all the States. Because New York has a divorce law, the Amendment would not require South Carolina to amend its law to grant divorce. Each State would preserve its own standard but the standard in any one State would apply equally to men and women in that particular State.

9. *Would the Amendment itself abrogate existing laws?*

ANS. The passage of the Amendment would not automatically abrogate existing laws. It would compel both Federal and State governments to observe the principle of equal rights.

10. *How can the States, being sovereigns, be compelled to carry out the purposes of this Amendment if their legislatures are dilatory?*

ANS. If their legislatures are dilatory, the States can be compelled to carry out the purposes of the Amendment exactly as they are compelled by other provisions of the Constitution. There is no unwarranted interference with the rights of States under the Amendment. Every Constitutional amendment presupposes that the States are surrendering certain rights inherent in the State Governments and not surrendered to the Federal Government when the Constitution was adopted.

11. *Who shall decide these questions—Congress, the State Legislatures, or the courts?*

ANS. Congress did not interfere with State regulations in respect to woman suffrage. Why should it under the Amendment? If a State having a wage or hour law for women makes no change in its law and Congress makes no laws to enforce the Amendment, some one may contest the law. The court—ultimately the Supreme Court—would decide. Whether the Court decides that the wage or hour regulation should apply to men also, or should not apply to either men or women, women would benefit, for they would be protected against unfair competition and this protection against unfair competition *is the purpose of the Amendment.*

12. *How could the Amendment affect rights determined by custom and not by law?*

ANS. There are traditions and prejudices against women in all fields of endeavor, and handicaps of cus-

tom and psychology. The Amendment could only affect them indirectly. Once the principle of Equal Rights for men and women becomes a part of our Constitution, the precedent established may eventually lead to the abandonment of outworn customs and traditions.

13. *What effect will the Amendment have on a wife's right of dower?*

ANS. Curtesy and dower laws vary in many States. New Jersey has equalized its dower and curtesy law by making equal provision for husband and wife. Some States have abolished dower and curtesy and have made equal provision for husband and wife in their decedents' estate law. Under the Amendment, each State could decide upon its own standard.

14. *What effect will the Amendment have upon alimony?*

ANS. Husband or wife, when divorced, may be required under certain circumstances to contribute to the support of the other in 13 States. Before the War, records showed that one-half of divorced women were self-supporting. Alimony is decreed in only about 10 per cent of divorce cases. Under the Amendment, each State could set its own standard regarding alimony.

15. *Will the marital domicile continue to be the husband's place of residence, or the wife's place of voting?*

ANS. In eight States the wife may have a domicile not controlled by that of her husband for the purpose of voting, holding office, and serving on a jury, as well as for the purpose of bringing suit for divorce or separation. Under the Amendment, each State could set its own standards respecting equal rights in its domicile law.

16. *The age of consent to marriage in some States is lower for girls than it is for boys. Will equality be established on the basis of present laws for boys or present laws for girls?*

ANS. Under the Amendment, each State would set its own standard of equality. At present there are six States wherein the law makes no distinction between boys and girls with respect to the minimum age for contracting marriage.

17. *Why not remove discriminations against women one by one, through "specific bills for specific ills" in each State?*

ANS. It would take generations of priceless energy and effort to do this. Moreover, State legislation is insecure, in that laws passed by one Legislature may be modified or repealed by the next.

18. *Will the Amendment cause confusion and litigation?*

ANS. There is no reason why the Amendment would cause more confusion than State laws. Certainly piecework legislation will not eliminate litigation or avoid confusion. We not only have litigation with "specific bills for specific ills," but each one of these specific laws has to be interpreted.

Every change involves adjustments, but nothing of value is obtained without some cost. It is worth considerable to women to settle the question of their status. It is safe to say that no litigation under the Amendment could possibly be so tedious and laborious as obtaining, one by one, a "specific bill for a specific ill" and litigate on all or some of them.

It took seventy years to win the vote for women in this country and much of that time was spent in persuading women that they needed it. Even at the end, there was a large group of organized women spending money to oppose suffrage.

In the words of the late M. Carey Thomas, when President of Bryn Mawr College: "It is strangely unsympathetic for opponents of an equal rights amendment to suggest removing thousands of inequalities and injustices by slow and painful piece-work in 48 State legislatures while women are being born, living their lives, and dying without the justice for which they have been waiting since the time of the cave man."

The Status Of Women

Jeannette Marks, of the faculty of Mount Holyoke College, is sending to her friends a greeting card with the following quotations from Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Margery Corbett Ashby, closing with a word of her own, which is particularly apropos:

"I know Florence Nightingale slightly. She came to see me when we were in London last; and I remember her face and her graceful manner, and the flower she sent me afterwards. I honor her from my heart. She is an earnest, noble woman, and has fulfilled her woman's duty where many men have failed.

"At the same time, I confess myself to be at a loss to see any new position for the sex, or the most imperfect solution of the 'woman's question,' in this step of hers. If a movement at all, it is retrograde, a revival of old virtues! . . . Every man is on his knees before ladies carrying lint, calling them 'angelic she's' whereas, if they stir an inch as thinkers or artists from the beaten line (involving more good to general humanity than is involved in lint), the very same men would curse the impudence of the very same women and stop there. I can't see on what ground you think you see here the least gain to the 'woman's question,' so called . . . If it is, why then woe to us all who are artists! The woman's question is at an end. The men's 'noes' carry it."—*Elizabeth Barrett Browning to Anna Jameson, 1855.*

"Any one of us, however timid and soft, can be educated; the lower ranks of employment at lower rates of pay are open to us; there is social and personal freedom, *but* this has its disadvantages. Because school and college are easy, because the young girl is welcomed for her cheapness in office, factory, and workshop, we believe we have equality and freedom, and can gain the goal of leadership or wealth equally with men. This is a delusion; we generally discover after ten years of work that we are passed over for promotion, and that the difference between men's and women's salaries and opportunities yawns more widely. We still need the loyalty and comradeship among women that won us the world of today. We must break the vicious circle which denies us posts of leadership and responsibility, because we have not had the experience which society has denied us . . . Speaking for all women who are near the dark shadow of tyranny and despotism, I say to you not 'Come over and help us,' but instead 'Be true to your own selves and thus help us.' "—*Margery Corbett Ashby. The Centenary of Mount Holyoke College. May 8, 1937.*

Today the peace of the world, opportunity for children, for education, for the arts, all depend on the courage of women to withstand for the sake of the race the destruction which comes through the dominations of fear and greed. Towards this end, and with the cooperation of all fair-minded and generous men, women need to secure and to hold positions of advantage and strength in government, in business, in education and in the arts.

League Of Nations And Status Of Women

By Erica Butler-Bowdon

WHEN the League Committee to inquire into the status of women met in Geneva in April, the Consultative Committee of Women's International Organizations wishing to meet its members gave a reception in their honour at the Hotel de Russie.

Acting as hostesses were Miss Alice Paul (International Committee of the Woman's Party), Miss D. Evans (Equal Rights International), Miss Gertrude Baer (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) and Miss Butler-Bowdon (Women's International Research Foundation). The representatives of the women's organizations were glad to make the acquaintance of the members of the Experts Committee to whom they wished to express their views, and they hoped to discover what the Committee of Experts intended to do for them.

Professor H. C. Gutteridge, the eminent British lawyer and Chairman of the Committee, was enthusiastic and sympathetic, and in spite of the impartiality that his position as Chairman called for, did not conceal a real desire to be of use to the women's organizations as far as possible. Other Committee members, including Miss Dorothy Kenyon (United States), also expressed themselves most anxious to hear the views of the organizations' representatives, who were unanimous in stressing the danger of allowing the inquiry to become an academic question only. They pointed out the importance of the Committee reporting to the League Assembly if possible on certain problems instead of waiting until the whole survey was complete. Members of the Committee promised to try to comply with this request.

On April 9th a round table discussion was held between the Committee of Experts and the Women's international organizations. Miss Paul urged that an interim report be made on the franchise, to the coming Assembly. The Chairman replied that this procedure would not be possible, as the survey would have to be published as a whole so as not to detract from the scientific aspect.

Miss Evans requested that to Section II of Private Law there be added a clause to claim for the wife a share in the husband's income in return for services in the home.

Speakers from other organizations included Mrs. Le Sueur (Open Door International), who pointed out that although the Committee was entrusted to make an objective study uncolored by opinions, yet one of the scientific institutions to be consulted was the International Labor Organization which had a decided policy regarding women's civil rights.

Mrs. Corbet Ashby (International Federation of Business and Professional Women) commented on the enormous interest that had been roused in many countries in the Committee's proceedings.

It is doubtless a great satisfaction that the League is concerning itself with this important question. It is within its power to hasten the day towards equality. A good foundation has been laid, but action by the Committee of Experts is essential. Miss Paul, in commenting on the results of the meeting, said that she hoped the League would bring some of its findings before the coming Assembly, otherwise the world would feel that it was treating this question in the same way as it did the disarmament question, when it did not promote disarmament, but only made inquiries.

It rests with the women's organizations so to influence the Committee that its ultimate recommendation will be in favor of an Equality Treaty and for the principle of equality to be inserted in the League Covenant.

In the *immediate* future a sure process of piecemeal improvement could be brought about by publishing sectional reports, rather than by confining the Committee's task to giving a complete picture of women's position at the end of two years study.

Woman Temporarily Becomes Governor Of Washington State

Mrs. Belle Reeves, first woman to be appointed Secretary of State of Washington, became Washington's first woman Governor April 15 when Governor Clarence Martin left for Washington, D. C., and Lieutenant Governor Victor A. Meyers was also absent from the State.

Mrs. Reeves, who, according to Marie Rowe Newberger writing an article about her for a newspaper in her home State, was once a printer's devil and proud of it, served in the Washington Legislature from Chelan County from 1923 to the present time, with the exception of 1929.

Describing her interview Miss Newberger says: "We settled down to a sort of 'I says to the Duchess and the Duchess says to me' interview. She hasn't changed since I interviewed her back in 1923. She's the same vital understanding, bright-eyed, chuckling-voiced woman, a woman of small stature—with a large soul!"

Baltimore City Branch Officers

Newly elected officers of the Baltimore Branch, National Woman's Party, include: President, Mrs. Thomas L. A. Musgrave; Firse Vice-President, Mrs. W. G. Thompson; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Ann McGee; Recording Secretary, Mrs. George L. Jones; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Mollie Rollman; Treasurer, Mrs. Herbert M. Foster.

Banquet Speakers Announced

Featuring the Eastern Regional Conference of the National Woman's Party to be held at Atlantic City, June 4th and 5th, will be the banquet Saturday night at the Hotel Claridge.

Distinguished speakers will include Mrs. Sarah Thompson Pell, of New York, national chairman of the Woman's Party; Mrs. Edith Houghton Hooker, of Baltimore, member of the national council, and Senator Gail Laughlin, of Maine, who will speak of the effect of the Equal Rights Amendment on state laws.

An interesting feature of the evening will be an impersonation entitled The Spirit of Susan B. Anthony, by Miss Kay Cavender, member of the Advertising Women of Philadelphia.

Additional information regarding the Conference may be had by addressing Dr. Arabel W. Clark, The Sheldrake, 49th and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, or Miss Ada Taylor, Hotel Claridge, Atlantic City, N. J.

The Annes Of The World

WELL MEANING, but not very practical persons, who are more accustomed to talking to—than talking with—those less fortunate women for whom they desire so-called protective laws rather than equal rights, could learn much from an understanding of what those they desire to help are really thinking.

Apparently it is difficult for some persons of leisure to believe that there are those who love work and desire only an opportunity to progress. In Mount Berry, Georgia, in the wonderful school of Martha Berry, where so many young people have found this opportunity, there is on file an application from such a girl whose letter tells the story much better than others could relate it.

Seventeen-year-old Anne does not ask to be relieved of the hard work that has developed her young body and stimulated her youthful mind. She loves the freshness of the moist soil she plows and which produces the cotton she likes to pick, and takes pride in the fact that she can pick it "faster than most men." It would be difficult to successfully explain to Anne why there should be even proposed a law to protect her from this work, leaving her less competent men competitors free to do the picking.

Apparently Anne loves freedom and only asks more freedom through the "knowledge of what lies beyond the ridge-top" and a "vision beyond the mule's ears."

"I love hard work," she writes. "If you will let me come to Berry Schools you will find I can milk cows, drive a two-mule team, and pick cotton faster than most men. It doesn't sound delicate," she writes, "but I am not. My father is a poor farmer, working on shares. I love books and reading, and have read everything I could get.

"I have worked hard all my life, and want to go on working, but I want a little learning that I may have a vision beyond the mule's ears as I plow across a corn patch, or cotton field. I want a knowledge of what lies beyond the ridge-top."

The Berry School is engaged in giving an education to these deserving young Annes, who love hard work but want training and opportunity.

The story of Anne, for whom the Berry School asks a $150 scholarship, comes to us through Florence Bayard Hilles of our National Council.

The viewpoint of this splendid young girl, who asks no leisure, no easy berth—only opportunity—should point the way to those who are sincere in their desire to help women.

Anne objects to the restriction of the ridge-top. She wants to see beyond. *Many women do.* Leisure is a pleasant word to use as a substitute for idleness, but it is not idleness that develops individuals. It is opportunity.

The world needs more Annes—and what the Annes of the world need is opportunity.

Labor Unions Endorse Amendment

Recent recruits in the campaign for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States are two Labor Unions of Baltimore, Md., the International Union of Operative Engineers, Local No. 272, and Local 155, Operative Plasterers and Finishers.

Many labor groups are now actively interested in the Amendment and are adding the weight of their influence to the campaign.

Discriminations Against Women Under The Laws Of Florida

(Continued from Page 259)

bands. This was a liberalist speaking, while your Lex non scripta formed on the tongues of Justices and Barristers, who always represent the acme of conservatism. Now Florida is suffering from a hangover of antiquated law.

Fortunately, however, the women of Florida are not as retrogressive as the laws would lead one to suppose.

Florida admits women to the professions. The Poet Laureate of Florida is a woman. Woman have sat on the Benches of her Courts. A Florida woman went from the Congress of the United States to adorn the post of Minister to Denmark. So much for the exceptional women, and the women who can afford to buy a license to deal freely, but the bulk of female creatures stand shackled.

Florida still subscribes to the common law doctrine of dower. A widow takes a one-third interest in her deceased husband's property, real or personal. In order to relinquish her inchoate right in his realty, she must sign his deeds, but the dower right does not attach to personalty unless he dies possessed thereof. Recently, however, the legislature of Florida has passed what has been nicknamed the "step-mother's bill." Under this ruling, if a man leaves children, who are not also the offspring of the widow, she only receives a child's part in his estate.

The majority of citizens in Florida, men and women, advocate a change in married women laws. Bills have been before the legislature and will be introduced again. The agitation for change is gathering momentum throughout the state. Only a few mossbacks impede the way of progress. So Florida women are looking up and easing the legal shackles on their wrists and ankles, while hoping legal freedom may be theirs before too long a time has passed.

Women Probably To Lose Jobs

A basic rate of $14.50 per week for all women workers in dry-cleaning and laundry establishments in the District was ordered yesterday by the Minimum Wage Board. The minimum wage becomes effective July 5.

Appearing on behalf of the employers, P. E. Hefner, of the Quality Laundry, urged a flat rate of 31 cents an hour. The basic rate ordered by the board applies to a work week of from 16 to 44 hours.

On the basis of a 44-hour week the workers will receive approximately 33 cents per hour. An additional ruling sets a rating of 35-cent hourly pay for each hour after 44.

Laundry officials protested against this ruling, claiming the peak of the laundry season, from May to August, inclusive, requires employes to work 48 hours per week. They maintained that the basic rate of $14.50 per week should apply to a 48-hour week.

George Preston Marshall, owner of the Palace Laundry and the Washington professional football team, said men probably would replace women in the industry because of the minimum-wage ruling.

More than 4,000 women will be affected by the order. Store clerks working for the laundries will be paid a minimum wage of $17 per week for a work week of from 40 to 48 hours.

A meeting for women workers in beauty parlors, the next group to be considered by the board, was called for tomorrow at 10 A. M. in the District Building.—Washington (D. C.) *Post*, May 5.

Prominent Philadelphia Woman Replies To Sir Hugh Walpole

Mrs. Ellis A. Schnabel, president of the Philadelphia Branch, National Woman's Party, takes issue with Sir Hugh Walpole, noted English novelist, who declares the world to be in "an intolerable mess," and takes women to task for doing nothing about it.

The following is from the Philadelphia *Record* of April 24:

"Sir Hugh Walpole has stated that the world is in 'an intolerable mess' and that women, particularly American women, 'who have so much power,' are doing nothing about it.

"I agree with Sir Hugh that the 'mess' is intolerable, but I deny that women, even American women, have the power which he attributes to them.

"Women's power is leashed, not loosed, because women have not an equal status with men. They must function in a world whose laws have all been made by men. There is something more for women in the world today than being petted, pawed over and picked to pieces. But they are not yet in a commanding position.

"The women of Russia, Germany, Japan and Italy have folded their hands, hushed their voices and settled back into domestic silence. The rest of the world's women are still prohibited from using their power because they must function in a man-controlled society.

"A country half free and half fettered can never make a democracy, for democracy means liberty. There cannot be power without liberty in the home, the church and the State.

"It is true that we have invaded men's professions and that we now have the opportunity to work. But in America, we have only two rights, under the law—the right to vote and the right of nationality. After 80 years, we are now citizens under the law.

"Women ARE trying to promote better international understanding. The International Council of Women, representing 40 countries, will meet in Edinburgh from July 11-22. Their theme will be 'Our Common Cause—Democracy.' The council was founded 50 years ago by Susan B. Anthony and Frances Willard, under the slogan 'Our Common Cause—Civilization.'

"Any charge that the 50 years' existence of this organization has failed to prevent the aforementioned 'mess' can be answered by the statement that the position of women in a man-made world has prevented the exercise of whatever power and influence they might have.

"It is partly true that American women are indifferent to the present European crisis. They need to be scared into the realization of the seriousness of the situation abroad. America's remoteness from Europe prevents us from realizing its full import. But although they are not shouting it from the housetops, I believe that women in the home are saying to those nearest and dearest to them, 'Something must be done.'

"The whole world, both men and women, seems to be afflicted with a new disease, 'inertia praecox.' Idealism has been thrown to the four winds, ideas are no longer born, education no longer educates and music, art and poetry have become palliatives. We are a mass of humanity of 'movie minds' and 'motor hearts.' Our forefathers had what we lack—constructive ideas and objectives.

"Isn't it just a little hard, Sir Hugh, to ask women to do the dirty work, now that men have failed? Isn't it unfair to expect the mess to be tackled by the women of the world, with joy and jubilation? What would be the reward? There have been few parks, statues, or monuments commemorating individual women. The only honor and glory she has achieved may be inscribed on her tombstone: 'She did her duty. May she rest from her labors.'"

Women Given Titled Appointments

Dr. Anne Jump Cannon and Dr. Cecilia Payne Gaposchkin, two foremost woman astronomers, staff members of the Harvard Observatory, have received titled appointments and faculty memberships without time limit by vote of the Harvard Corporation.

Dr. Cannon has been a member of the research staff of the Observatory since 1897 and has achieved distinction for her classification of stellar spectra and for work in the variable star field. Dr. Gaposchkin is distinguished for her catalogs of stellar magnitudes, which are used as standards by astronomers.

In the university's previous three hundred years, only one woman has ever received a corporation appointment.

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